
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE'S KEIKI CAUCUS TO
CONSULT THE LEGACY COALITION TO FORM A WORKING GROUP TO
DETERMINE HOW THE LEGACY COALITION CAN BEST ASSIST THE
COURTS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN IN MATTERS RELATING TO
CHILD CUSTODY AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN
REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES.

1 WHEREAS, one of the most vital resources to Native
2 Hawaiians is their children; and
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4 WHEREAS, it has been reported that approximately fifty
5 percent of the foster care cases under the jurisdiction of the
6 Department of Human Services involve Native Hawaiian families;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, the practice of hanai exists within the Native
10 Hawaiian culture to address the foster care of children; and
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12 WHEREAS, various regional groups' kupuna have organized the
13 Legacy Coalition, the fiduciary agent for activities of Na
14 Kupuna O Ka Na'i Aupuni O Hawaii Nei, to represent them as a
15 whole; and
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17 WHEREAS, kupuna groups have assisted in family court
18 matters involving the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian
19 children; and
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21 WHEREAS, kupuna groups do not presently have an official
22 role in family court matters involving the foster care and hanai
23 of Native Hawaiian children; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Legacy Coalition has previously assisted
26 family courts, in Hawaii and on the mainland, in matters
27 regarding the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian children;
28 and
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1 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that it is worthwhile to
2 determine how the Legacy Coalition may best assist family courts
3 in matters of the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian
4 children; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
8 that the Hawaii State Legislature's Keiki Caucus, in
9 consultation with the Legacy Coalition, is requested to convene
10 a working group to:

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12 (1) Determine how the Legacy Coalition can best assist the
13 courts and Child Protective Services regarding the
14 placement of Native Hawaiian children who have been
15 removed from their homes;
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17 (2) Determine how the Legacy Coalition can best assist
18 Native Hawaiian children who have been removed from
19 their homes; and
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21 (3) Review the manner in which courts handle child custody
22 cases involving Native Hawaiian children; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include
25 representatives of various stakeholders, including:

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27 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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29 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
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31 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
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33 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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35 (5) The Attorney General, or designee;
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37 (6) Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward District;
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39 (7) Na Kupuna O Wai'anae;
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41 (8) The Legacy Coalition;
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- 1 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana;
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3 (10) Na Kupuna O Kekaha;
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5 (11) Na Kupuna O Maku'u;
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7 (12) Hawaii State Bar Association;
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9 (13) EPIC Ohana;
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11 (14) Partners in Development Foundation;
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13 (15) Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center;
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15 (16) Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs;
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17 (17) Honolulu Police Department, Wai'anae community liaison;
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19 (18) The Director of Human Services, or designee; and
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21 (19) Any other individual or organization the Hawaii State
22 Legislature's Keiki Caucus deems necessary; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature's
25 Keiki Caucus, in consultation with the Legacy Coalition, submit
26 a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
27 the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on the findings and
28 recommendations of the working group; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be terminated
31 upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chief Justice of the
35 Hawaii Supreme Court; Attorney General; Director of Human
36 Services; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawaii Foster Parent
37 Association; Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition; Hawaii Youth
38 Services Network; Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward
39 District; Na Kupuna O Wai'anae; The Legacy Coalition; Na Kupuna O
40 Kahana; Na Kupuna O Kekaha; Na Kupuna O Maku'u; Hawaii State Bar
41 Association; EPIC Ohana; Partners in Development Foundation;



1 Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center; Association of Hawaiian
2 Civic Clubs; and Honolulu Police Department Wai'anae community
3 liaison.
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